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M.L.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

LEVERIDGE et al

Atty. Ref.: 36-1302

Serial No. **Unknown**

Group:

Filed: **December 22, 1999**

Examiner:

For: **DATA COMMUNICATIONS**

* * * * *

December 22, 1999

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim ~~3~~, line 1, delete "or 2".

Claims ~~7~~ and ~~8~~, line 1 of each, delete "any preceding claim" and insert
-- claim 1 --.

Claim ~~11~~, line 1, delete "or 10".

Claim ~~14~~, line 1, delete "or 13".

Claim ~~15~~, line 1, delete "any of claims 9 to 14" and insert -- claim 9 --.

Claim ~~17~~, line 1, delete "any of claims 9 to 16" and insert -- claim 9 --.

Claim ~~18~~, line 1, delete "any of claims 9 to 17" and insert -- claim 9 --.

Claim ~~19~~, line 2, delete "any preceding claim" and insert -- claim 1 --.